Wulagasaurus

Wulagasaurus (meaning "Wulaga lizard", in reference to the discovery locality) is a genus of saurolophine hadrosaurid dinosaur from the Late Cretaceous of Heilongjiang, China. Its remains were found in a bonebed in the middle Maastrichtian-age Yuliangze Formation, dated to 69 million years ago.[1][2][3] This bonebed is otherwise dominated by fossils of the lambeosaurine hadrosaurid (hollow-crested duckbill) *Sahaliyania*. *Wulagasaurus* was named by Pascal Godefroit and colleagues in 2008. Only partial remains are known at this time. It is one of several hadrosaurids from the Amur River region named since 2000. The type and only species to date is *W. dongi*, named in honor of Chinese paleontologist Dong Zhiming.[4] In 2010 Gregory S. Paul estimated its size at 9 meters (30 ft) and 3 tonnes (3.3 short tons).[5]

Wulagasaurus

Temporal range: Late Cretaceous, 69–66 Ma

Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN

Right dentary

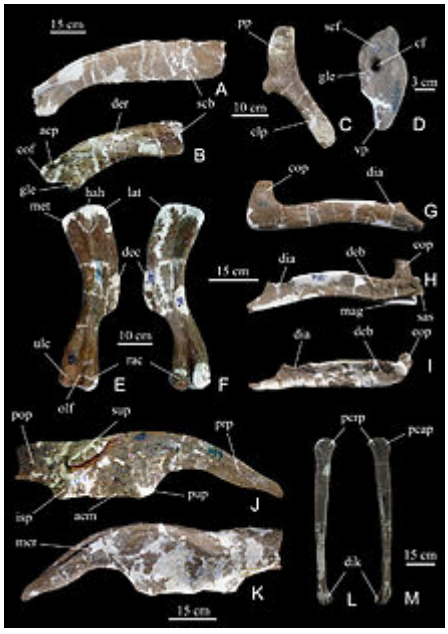
Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Clade:	Dinosauria
Order:	†Ornithischia
Suborder:	†Ornithopoda
Family:	†Hadrosauridae
Subfamily:	†Saurolophinae
Genus:	†*Wulagasaurus* Godefroit *et al.*, 2008
Species:	†***W. dongi***

Binomial name

†***Wulagasaurus dongi***

Godefroit *et al.*, 2008



specimens of *Wulagasaurus*

Wulagasaurus is based on GMH W184, a partial dentary (toothbearing bone of the lower jaw). Godefroit and colleagues assigned additional remains from the bonebed to their new genus, including three braincases, a cheekbone, two maxillae (the toothbearing bone of the upper jaw), another dentary, two shoulder blades, two sternal elements, two upper arm bones, and an ischium. It can be distinguished from other hadrosaurids by its slender dentary and the unique form of its upper arm, which had distinctive articulations and placements for muscle attachments. Godefroit and colleagues performed a phylogenetic analysis that suggests *Wulagasaurus* was the most basal saurolophine known (which would result in a long ghost lineage[6]), and interpreted this as evidence that saurolophines and hadrosaurids in general originated in Asia, which has been supported by other finds since.[4] As a hadrosaurid, *Wulagasaurus* would have been an herbivore.[7]

In recent studies conducted by researchers from the *Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology* (IVPP), along with others from *Chinese Academy of Science*, *American Museum of Natural History*, and *Geological Museum of Heilongjiang Provinces*, re-evaluated and re-described *Wulagasaurus dongi*.[3] Based on both original and recent specimens, they concluded that *Wulagasaurus* shared many morphological similarities with North American taxon's *Brachylophosaurus* and *Maiasaura*, possibly forming a clade-structure within the already existing clade Brachylophosaurini.[3] This hypothesis has been demonstrated by another phylogenetic analysis recently coming out.[8]

See also

- Timeline of hadrosaur research

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